

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of delegating signing of predetermined data by a given one of M first members mandated by N second members, M and N being integers of which one is equal to 1 and the other is at least equal to 2, the given first member having a terminal including first information on said given first member, said method comprising the following steps:

- reading from said terminal first information on said M first members and second information on said N second members included in delegation means responsive to a first identifier of said given first member included in said first information and transmitted by said terminal to said delegation means, said second information on a second member comprising at least an identifier of said second member,

- concatenating in said terminal (a) predetermined data, (b) said first information and (c) said second information into concatenated data,

- signing said concatenated data by using a first private key of said given first member in a cryptographic algorithm included in said terminal to produce a signature, and

- transmitting, from said terminal, said concatenated data, and said signature to any user terminal interested in said predetermined data.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said second information on a second member further comprises a public key of said second member.

4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said second information on a second member further comprises an electronic certificate of said second member.

5. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said first information on a first member comprises an electronic certificate of said first member.

6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said integer M is equal to 1 and said integer N is at least equal to 2.

7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said integer N is equal to 1 and said integer M is at least equal to 2.

8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said M first members and said N second members constitute a group of members.

9. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 comprising loading predetermined data and a signature program including at least part of said cryptographic algorithm from at least one server connected to said terminal of said given first member before verification of said predetermined data by said given first member.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for delegating signing of predetermined data, said apparatus of a given one of M first members mandated by N second members, M and N being integers of which one is equal to 1 and the other is equal to 2, the apparatus including first information on said given first member and comprising:

a reading arrangement for reading first information on said M first members and second information on said N second members, the reading arrangement being arranged to be responsive to a first identifier of said given first member which is included in said first information and which is to be transmitted by said apparatus to said delegation arrangement, said second information on a second member comprising at least an identifier of said second member,

a concatenating arrangement for concatenating (a) predetermined data, (b) said

first information and (c) said second information into concatenated data,

a signing arrangement for signing said concatenated data by using a first private key of said given first member in a cryptographic algorithm included in said apparatus to produce a signature, and

a transmitter arrangement for transmitting said concatenated data, and said signature to any user terminal interested in said predetermined data.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second information on a second member further comprises a public key of said second member.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second information on a second member further comprises an electronic certificate of said second member.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first information on a first member comprises an electronic certificate of said first member.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said integer M is equal to 1 and said integer N is at least equal to 2.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said integer N is equal to 1 and said integer M is at least equal to 2.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said M first members and said N second members constitute a group of members.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a loading arrangement for loading said predetermined data and a signature program including at least part of said cryptographic algorithm from at least a server connected to said apparatus before verification of said predetermined data by said given first member.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the predetermined data include a digitized document.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined data include a digitized document.